2016 Zika Preparedness

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Message Urgency: Medium

This is a message from the Louisiana Department of Health Emergency Operations Center (LDH EOC). Please share and distribute with relevant stakeholders and partners through your own distribution channels. To remain current on newly released information about the Zika virus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at http://www.cdc.gov/zika/.

CDC is working with state health departments and blood and tissue collection organizations to help ensure the safety of our blood and tissue supply and reduce the risk of Zika virus transmission through blood transfusions and tissue transplants. Zika virus disease (ZIKV) is a nationally notifiable condition. Cases are reported to CDC by state and local health departments using standard case definitions.

To protect the US blood supply, CDC in collaboration with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) defines areas of active Zika virus transmission as having two or more locally acquired cases of Zika virus infection within 45 days. These defined areas of risk can be different from areas for which CDC has issued travel guidance, because of concerns about potential risk for blood safety.

The following are areas of active transmission of Zika virus in the continental United States for the purpose of blood and tissue safety intervention:

• Miami-Dade County, Florida - As of July 29, 2016
• Palm Beach County, Florida - As of August 24, 2016

As of August 26, 2016, FDA advises testing for Zika virus in all donated blood and blood components in the US. The FDA has released the updated guidance Revised Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Zika Virus Transmission by Blood and Blood Components, which can be found at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/Blood/UCM518213.pdf.

Based upon the revised guidance, FDA recommends that blood establishments implement the recommendations in this guidance as follows:

1. Blood establishments that collect Whole Blood and blood components in U.S. states and territories with one or more reported locally acquired mosquito-borne cases of ZIKV should implement the recommendations immediately. You should cease blood collection until testing or the use of pathogen reduction technology is implemented, consistent with the recommendations in this guidance.

As of the date of issuance of this guidance, this recommendation applies to blood establishments that collect Whole Blood and blood components in Florida and Puerto Rico.

2. Because of their proximity to areas with locally acquired mosquito-borne cases of ZIKV or because of other epidemiological linkage to ZIKV, such as the number of travel-associated cases reported in a state, blood establishments that collect Whole Blood and blood components in Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina and Texas should implement the recommendations as soon as feasible, but not later than 4 weeks after the guidance issue date.

3. Blood establishments that collect Whole Blood and blood components in all other states and territories should implement the recommendations as soon as feasible, but not later than 12 weeks after the guidance issue date.

In the state of Louisiana, Zika virus is a reportable disease. To discuss a possible exposure, request laboratory testing, or report a suspected case, contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 504-568-8313 or after hours at 800-256-2748.